

I voted Yes on H.R. 1815, the Lena Horne Recognition Act, which authorizes a Gold Medal to be awarded posthumously on behalf of Congress to commemorate Lena Horne's work as a civil rights leader and American cultural icon.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Lena Mary Calhoun Horne broke through barriers for women and African-Americans when she became the first African-American woman to perform with an all-white band as its featured singer. Ms. Horne was also the first African-American artist to sign a long-term contract with a major studio.

Despite many obstacles, Lena Horne became an international star and used her fame to advocate for civil rights and equality for all. I am pleased to support this awarding a Gold Medal to this deserving New Yorker who is an inspiration to all Americans.

H.R. 1815 was approved by a vote of 230-2.